# City of Cambridge

# **Commission for Persons with Disabilities**

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Miriam Cooper Chair

Elizabeth Dean-Clower Sandy Durmaskin JoAnn Haas Nicole Horton-Stimpson Alissa Land Bet MacArthur Naomi Pinson Kathy Watkins

Michael Muehe Executive Director/ ADA Coordinator

Kate Thurman
Project Coordinator

Joanna Berton Martinez Katie Ashwill Oscar Anderson Pro Bono Associates The next meeting of the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities will be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room at 51 Inman Street on Thursday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m.

# PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE BY 5:30 PM AGENDA

Please turn OFF your cell phones <u>before</u> the meeting begins. Thank you. NOTE: CCPD meetings are audio recorded for the purpose of taking minutes.

1. Introductions	2 min.	
2. Approval of Minutes for May 9	2 min.	
3. Announcements	2 min.	CCPD staff / board
4. Chair's Report Planning for October Employment Event Update on Filling CCPD Board Vacancies	45 min.	Miriam Cooper
5. Police Community Liaison Update	5 min.	Chris Burke
6. Public Works Update	5 min.	Kathy Watkins
7. Update on Sidewalk Obstruction Issues	5 min.	JoAnn Haas
8. Disability Reframed Film Series	5 min.	Bet MacArthur
9. Executive Director's Report	5 min.	Michael Muehe
10. Project Coordinator's Report	5 min.	Kate Thurman
11. Public Input	3 min.	general public
12. Old Business	2 min.	
13. New Business	2 min.	

This is a scent-free meeting. In consideration of individuals with environmental illness and/or multiple chemical sensitivity, please refrain from wearing perfume, after-shave or any other scented products to our meetings. Thank you for your consideration.

The City of Cambridge, Commission for Persons with Disabilities, does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities will provide auxiliary aids and services, written materials in alternative formats, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to persons with disabilities upon request.

# Approved 8/08/2013

# **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)**

Minutes for Thursday, June 13, 2013

51 Inman Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Cambridge, MA 02139

Meeting was called to order at 5:43pm

#### **Present:**

Members: Miriam Cooper, Elizabeth Dean-Clower, Sandy Durmaskin, JoAnn Haas, Alissa Land, Bet MacArthur, and Kathy Watkins.

Alternate: Don Summerfield

Staff: Michael Muehe and Kate Thurman

Absent: Nicole Horton-Stimpson and Naomi Pinson.

Guests: Chris Burke, Cambridge Police; Sandy, Manning Resident; Jonathan Lazar, Radcliffe Institute; Mark Merrow, visitor; and Mary Platt, Resident.

#### **Documents Used:**

- Agenda for June 13, 2013 CCPD Meeting
- Minutes from May 9, 2013 CCPD Meeting

**Minutes:** A motion approve the May 9, 2013 minutes was seconded and passed.

**Chair's Report:** The Board voted to take the month of July off. The next CCPD meeting will be August 8.

Miriam Cooper reported that CCPD received an unusually large number of well-qualified applicants for the two Board vacancies, and that interviews were underway.

Ms. Cooper encouraged more Board members to get involved with the production of public service announcements, coming up with topics, writing scripts, storyboarding, going in front of the camera, doing voiceovers, etc. Sandy Durmaskin volunteered to be a member of the PSA workgroup.

# October Employment Event:

Ms. Cooper said that CCPD's annual October Disability Employment Month event will likely be scaled back this year. There was some discussion about having the event during the day rather than evening and about reaching out to the business community.

## Discussion topics included:

- Getting the Cambridge business associations involved
- Having a semi-informal conversation about reasonable accommodations, addressing questions that many employers are too afraid to ask
- Creating a kind of curriculum on employing people with disabilities that can be used with specific groups
- Putting on an event for the public or doing an event for a targeted population
- Creating a PowerPoint Presentation for City Employees. Example topics: reasonable accommodations, web accessibility, training and advancement.
- Narrowing the topic/scope of the event
- Partnering with the Library to bring in a speaker

• Daytime vs. evening event

Kathy Watkins, Sandy Durmaskin and Elizabeth Dean-Clower volunteered to be on the planning sub-committee.

## **Police Community Liaison Update:**

Superintendent Chris Burke reported on bicycle traffic efforts. As previously discussed, the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) has increased traffic enforcement at Massachusetts and Rindge Avenues and has issued citations for both motor vehicle and bicycle violations.

He said that effective June 1, the Registry of Motor Vehicles has incorporated bicycle citations on the same ticket as motor vehicle citations. This will streamline the process for ticketing cyclists who do not follow traffic rules and will improve accountability. These tickets are sent to the court, with 50% of the fine going to the state and the other half to the City. Citations can be appealed before a court magistrate, but there are also sanctions in place for not paying the citation. This will also enhance data collection.

Bicycle traffic enforcement will increase in North Cambridge, Harvard Square and Central Square. In addition, all officers are reminded at every roll call before each shift to enforce bicycle rules.

**Public Works Update:** Kathy Watkins reported that DPW is looking for input in continuing to engage with the community during large public works construction projects, stating that a lot of people are not comfortable attending public meetings.

**Film Series Update:** Bet MacArthur reported that the last screening, *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, was held at the ICA in Boston. The next film will be *Music Within* in Cambridge on July 27.

**Sidewalk Update:** JoAnn Haas said that she will ask Sue Clippinger for an update on posting the bicycle regulations online. She also encouraged folks to report potholes to DPW.

**Executive Director's Report:** Michael Muehe reported meeting with Sue Clippinger and Jeff Parenti to discuss accessible pedestrian signals (APS). They agreed to engage in an ongoing discussion with us about APS in general. There are three project locations that are in the pipeline to receive the new integrated pushbutton signals.

Mr. Muche said that CCPD will have a booth at the Abilities Expo, taking place in Boston from September 20-22<sup>nd</sup> and that volunteers will be needed to staff the table.

He reminded folks that the September CCPD meeting has been moved to the 19th.

**Project Coordinator's Report:** Kate Thurman reported that she and Michael Muehe attended the statewide meeting of commissions on disability in Marlborough, which was coordinated by the Disability Law Center, Disability Policy Consortium, and the Massachusetts Office on Disability.

She also met with the DHSP Preschool Directors and will be going into the schools to speak with the children about disability-related topics, such as service animals.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Kate Thurman, Disability Project Coordinator